



Papua Updates

Evangelism leads to community interest

The Papua mission has developed in a fascinating way. Our first ordained native Papuan Orthodox Deacon Athanasius, with the help of his nephew-in-law Chrysostomos (who was baptized by Fr. Alexios during his visit to the island last September 2008), is a professor at the local Cenderawasih University of Jayapura City. Everywhere he teaches he always tells people about the apostolic and ancient Christianity. His zealous witness has borne much fruit: a great number of his students were interested to hear what he had to say about Orthodoxy. Upon my arrival in Jayapura City, Papua, these beautiful and handsome curly-haired and black-skinned students flocked around me. (Indeed the native tribes

of Papua are related somehow to the African people; they may have come to Indonesia by rafts via the island of Madagascar on the east coast of the African continent a thousand years ago, sailing through the Indian Ocean and landing on the island of Papua.) They were eager to know what Orthodoxy is all about.

They also wanted very much to have an Orthodox Church building erected in the area. The above-mentioned Deacon Athanasius, whom I baptized during my visit to the island in 2006 with the late Fr Gregory Momongan, has offered his personal property to be used for building an Orthodox church building. With the donation from some friends and relatives of his who are not even Orthodox Christians, he has been able to start a foundation for the Church building on this property. It will cost around \$8,000 to be able to erect a



simple Orthodox temple on this property, and we pray that God will provide this funding to continue the ministry there.

From Fr. Daniel

Dear faithful friend,

I trust that you have been blessed by the celebration of Pentecost! As we contemplate the equipping of the disciples to carry out Good News of Jesus Christ, I bring you greetings and love in the Lord from your brothers and sisters in

Indonesia. Much has happened in our humble mission in the last few months, and I would like to share this news with you.

This year I celebrated Holy Week and Pascha in Jakarta. Then just two days after Pascha, I flew for 6 hours non-stop to Jayapura City,

on the island of Papua, West of Papua New Guinea, to devote my efforts to the mission there. During my time there many converts were baptized and added to our church, and I joyfully participated in several wedding services as well, including the first Orthodox Christian wedding in Indonesia. Although

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the pace of activities was exhausting, the time spent there was exhilarating.

We thank you for your prayers on behalf of our mission, which as you can see, continually faces challenges from the evil one. It is only through fervent prayer that those working in the field can continue with strength and perseverance. Your financial contributions are also deeply appreciated, and the use of them brings results that are far-reaching. We have grown in size and in the breadth of the ministry, thanks to God's sustaining hand, and through your generous gifts.

New Buildings

Gifts of land give way to places of worship

Our Mission continues to see the helping hands of God with regard to our need for buildings associated with the ministry. Through so many different efforts, including our "Friends of Indonesia" organization, several plots of lands in several different mission locations have been purchased for the building of the places of worship. Many of these buildings have been funded through local help in Indonesia, such as the one that is being built by Fr Atha-

New Mission Outposts

Organizing mission areas

In spite of some physical limitations I have traveled throughout Indonesia to preach and to teach the Gospel of Christ to as many people as possible. There have been a lot of inquiries about Orthodoxy to me from many people. Finally I decided to divide those people according to the location where they live around Jakarta, serving them as new mission outposts. In Cempaka Putih I serve Liturgy every Sunday morning. Immediately after liturgy I drive to the Kosambi-Tangerang area where I teach the Orthodox Faith every Sunday from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. From there I go the Kemayoran area. You can see that Sun-



days are a very full day of ministry for me! Additionally I serve in Kalibaru-Pasar Senen every Friday evening, and in Cempaka Mas Saturday evenings. God has kindly provided volunteers to transport me to these various missions, for which I am grateful. Aside from this regular schedule, I have also visited different areas or gatherings when I've been invited to give a speech or to preach to non-Orthodox gatherings who are inquiring about the Orthodox faith.

nasius Muzendi in Papua. It is these local efforts of the mission that we share with you in this section.

For a long time I have been needing a mission office and a place to reside in Jakarta, so that the work of the Mission especially in Jakarta will be handled better. We had also been hoping to expand the area of Holy Trinity Church, in Solo, Central Java, with a social hall, but unfortunately God had not given the answer for such a desire.

However the help of God is sometimes unexpected when it comes. Our Deacon Lukas Adi Sutjipto has been desiring to help the development of the mission of the

Orthodox Church. Having sold some real estate, he offered part of the proceeds to God for building a social hall in the compound of the Holy Trinity Church in Solo, Central Java. Everyone was joyful to have such a desire fulfilled. The hall is now in the process of being built, and I was present to bless the foun-



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The PPIR Program

Striving to meet the need for Orthodox, Biblical Teaching

With the growth of the so many missions in Indonesia, and the wide spread between the areas where the missions are located, the need for solid Orthodox and Biblical teaching for all these places is strongly felt. Some have suggested that my teachings be recorded for use among the current missions and for future ones, either in written form or as a CD / DVD to be left behind for the future works of the mission. Consequently a new organization has been formed to address this, under the auspices of the GOI, called the Pelayanan Pekabaran Iman Rasuliah (PPIR) or "Apostolic Faith Kerygma Ministry." This is a volunteer organization to bring this mission to fruition. PPIR will become a spearhead for the GOI to launch the distribution of free DVDs or pamphlets on Orthodoxy to many people as a way to make the work of the mission more effective and widespread. We pray it will also become a bridge between the GOI with non-Christian groups and with other denominations who mostly are still suspicious of the Orthodox Church, so that they will be open to invite us to talk about the Apostolic Faith of the Church to them. PPIR will offer information classes for everyone taught by me either in person or through the videos when I am absent. If the interest continues, a second level of class on Orthodoxy, which amounts to Catechism, will be taught to them. As new converts are baptized, and new communities are formed, the GOI will oversee them.



Videotaping has already begun, and so far 19 tapes have been produced of my teaching and preaching, and these have already been distributed free of charge to various missions outposts all over Indonesia. So whether I am present or absent, the new people and the other members of the Indonesian Orthodox Church will receive the same teaching on Orthodoxy. Two young Catechumens are also assisting me in this endeavor; Yudi (20 years old) a university student and Andy (in his thirties) who is a school teacher and is translating several Orthodox books into Indonesian as part of this PPIR program.

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dation at the stone-laying ceremony. It will be named as St Lukas' Hall,

in honor to the patron saint of Deacon Lukas himself.

Another gift came by way of an Indonesian businessman who has begun to discover the Orthodox faith. He has offered his house in downtown Jakarta for me to use as both home and office, and he has also given land in the mountain area of Wonosobo city (Central Java) which is very cool and fresh place, to be used either as a prayer mountain resort or monastery. Yet another person has offered the use of a car and driver for me to better serve the many missions here. Thanks be to God for seeing to all of our needs.

Keep in Touch!

Visit us at friendsofindonesia.org to stay updated on new developments in the Indonesian Orthodox Church. Also, Fr. Daniel will be available during some portion of 2009 to visit your parish or organization, and tell you more about his conversion from Islam, as well as the Indonesian Orthodox Church. Please contact us through the web site, or by calling (410) 864-8007. If you leave a message we will return your call promptly.

Challenges faced by the Church

Natural disasters and political change challenge the Church

I arrived in Jakarta during the midst of the rainy season in Indonesia. The country has only two seasons, rainy and dry, and the former can bring very severe weather, as we witnessed this year. Every time there was a heavy rain many areas experienced flooding, including the city of Jakarta. For several months I visited many areas that were destroyed by landslides, tornadoes, and volcanic explosions; many lives were lost in addition to the extensive damage caused to villages and homes.

Apart from these natural disasters the country has faced mounting political tensions. Elections were impending when I arrived, and the concern was that many of the po-

litical candidates were from Islamic political parities, and brought with them Islamic agendas rather than nationalistic ones. More than 30 political parties were in competition at the time of the election, which occurred on April 15. Our prayer regarding the election was answered, and the winners were all more or less nationalist rather the Islamic ones. The newly-elected officials are primarily from the Democratic, the Workers Group, and the Indonesian Party of Struggle.

Our Holy Trinity Church in Soho played a significant role in the election, as Fr. Alexios was assigned to oversee the voting for that area. He has remained involved in communi-

ty, and sometimes political, activities in order to promote a better relationship with our Islamic neighbors. The respect given Fr. Alexios, who often functions as a mediator when disputes arise among the neighboring people, has therefore translated into a respect for the church's role in the community as well. On the day of the election, people were flocking to the backyard of the church for voting, and Fr Alexios was very busy overseeing everything. He was very exhausted, but it is worth the effort in order to help protect our mission work from any possible attack from people who may not like us.

Friends Of Indonesia
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friendsofindonesia.org

Friends of Indonesia exists to raise awareness and support for the Indonesian Orthodox Church. Our purpose is disseminate information about Indonesia, its history and culture, and about the Orthodox Church in Indonesia; and to encourage Orthodox believers to support the Church in Indonesia through their prayers and gifts.